KNOCKER FROM FLORENCE.

would pay well to make part of them portable, especially now that there is a probability of an increasing scarcity of farm-labourers,—which proves how important it is to employ such as there are on labour that is really necessary and profitable.

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I am not aware that any one has previously suggested the trial of "portable" farm-buildings, and I am prepared to receive the usual proportion of ridicule as a proposer of a new plan; but I wish to submit it to the fair consideration of all persons who take an interest in such subjects, and I am more particularly desirous of drawing the attention of agricultural implement makers to the idea that, if some farm-buildings, such as cattle-boxes, were made "portable," they would afford to them another source of profitable employment for their capital and skill, and a means of being useful to others. BARUGH ALMACK.

A KNOCKER FROM ABROAD.

THIS knocker was sketched in Florence. It is composed of wood and bronze, and is altogether 4 feet in height. No one will say it is "not worth a rap;" nevertheless, we do not give it for imitation. It is a curious piled up vagary, made valuable by the skilful hand which put together its incongruous constituents.

A BANQUET IN HONOUR OF ART AND LITERATURE is to be given shortly at Birmingham.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Cambridge. — The University and Town Waterworks Company, lately formed, has employed Mr. James Simpson, C.E. to examine and report upon the scheme; and the water, according to the *Cambridge Chronicle*, has been favourably reported on by Dr. Alfred Taylor, Professor of Chemistry, who has analysed it.

Ryde.—An attempt was lately made to form a water company to supply this place with water; but the promoters of the Public Health Act have resolved to await the formation of a local board of health, who will have power to supply the town with water.

Cowes.—It is proposed to have a floating bridge between Medina-wharf, West Cowes, and the old Custom House-quay, at East Cowes. A plan of the proposed bridge, according to the *Hampshire Advertiser*, has been prepared by Mr. Dredge.

Kemerton (*Tewkesbury*).—The church at Kemerton has been decorated and re-opened. The chancel has been painted in polychrome, and two windows have been filled with stained glass. An oak screen and a new organ have been added.

Cirencester.—It is proposed to take down the north gallery of the parish church, and to throw open Trinity Chapel to the back of the building. Earl Bathurst, it is said, will give 200*l.* towards the cost of alteration.

Kidderminster.—A spirit of improvement appears to be at work here in street architecture. A shop front, 102 feet in length, has lately been remodelled on a design by Mr. T. Smith, of Stourbridge, architect, executed by Mr. J. C. Harris, of Clifton, builder, at considerable cost, and with more than ordinary pretensions to provincial splendour. It has five windows, each containing four panes of plate glass, each pane being 9 feet long and 3 feet broad, and one with two panes. The lower portion of the building is faced with stone, the upper is stuccoed. Between the windows are eight pilasters with moulded capitals, which support a moulded and enriched cornice, balconies, parapet, &c. There is a lavish use of gold upon the parts in relief. The pavement in front of the shop, too, has been much improved, and the whole will, doubtless, lead to further improvements amongst rival drapers and others in the shop-keeping line.

Glasbury-bridge, Herefordshire.—This bridge appears to have been a constant and standing subject of discussion and annoyance at county sessions for several years back; and now that the old one has given place to a new, the annoyance and discussion, so far from being brought to a conclusion, only seem to be increased. The new bridge is on the suspension principle, with spans of 60 feet, and inch and quarter girders as the main support, besides the piers. The first contractor who attempted to carry out the plan found that he had to build his piers upon sand, and seems to have thrown up his contract in despair. This difficulty was overcome by a new contractor, Mr. Wylie, who has carried out the contract so far on the original plan that traffic has been allowed, without testing the strength of the bridge, and now it appears that the vibration with an empty cart is so great, that foot-passengers are apt to be upset by it, and several of the tie-rods have already been broken. The contractor states that the welding was defective, and proposes to substitute or add timber props in the middle of each waterway, to which many of the magistrates indignantly object. The contractor complains that twenty tons of gravel, on which he had not calculated, have been placed over each watercourse. He is bound to make a secure structure on the plan given, and to keep it so for seven years. He expresses his willingness to do this, but asks permission to erect, at his own cost, the timber props referred to as the best way to secure stability; only he is ready, if the magistrates choose, to have better welded tie-rods instead; but these, he alleges, will even then prove to be a continual source of annoyance so long as the bridge exists. The matter, in the meantime, has been referred to the county surveyor for his report on the points in question.

St. Bride's Major. Glamorgen.—The ancient parish church of St. Bride's Major, which contains some interesting tombs of the Butler family (formerly possessors of Dunraven, having undergone a restoration, was reconsecrated by the Bishop of Llandaff on 25th ult. The nave has been almost entirely rebuilt in the Decorated style, covered with an open roof of timber of the waggon-head form, and fitted with open seats. The chancel has been also fitted with stalled seats for the Dowager Countess of Dunraven and family. The pulpit is of Sutton stone, carved. Owing to the refusal of the lay impropriator some contemplated repairs of the chancel have been abandoned. The alterations were carried into effect from the designs and under the superintendence of Mr. Egbert Moxham, of Heath, architect.

Hanley, Staffordshire.—The corner stone of St. Luke's Church, Wellington District, Hanley, in the Staffordshire Potteries, was laid on 30th ultimo by Mr. Smith Child, one of the members of Parliament for the northern division of the county. The building which will be in the Decorated style of Gothic architecture, will be formed of a local stone, and will consist of a nave 69 feet long by 24 feet wide; a north aisle 66 feet long by 15 feet wide; a north porch; a chancel 25 feet long by 19½ feet wide; and a steeple at the south-east corner of the nave (at its junction with the chancel) which is appropriated to the purpose of a vestry. There will be a firing vault under one portion of the chancel for the warming apparatus, with approach from the outside. A gallery for children will extend across the west end, with a staircase approach from the outside, and carried up as a turret. The font will be of

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